

### Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 6, as follows:

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Pay-out tubes are commonly used in the cable industry. For a basic understanding of the state-of-the-art with respect to pay-out tubes one is referred to the following U.S. Patents Nos.: 4,022,300; 4,057,2034,047,203; 4,274,607; 5,042,739; 5,064,136; 5,150,852; 5,115,995; 5,152,476; 4,373,687; and, 5,368,245.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 1, as follows:

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Turning more specifically to a description inlet end portion **24** of the tube **20**, in addition to the elliptical shape of the cross section there exist four ribs **29a**, **29b**, **29c**, and **29d**. Each rib is reverse tapered relative to the taper of tube **20**, and each rib extends from inlet end portion **24** to intermediate portion **23**. Ribs **29a** and **29b** are circumferentially centered on major axis **25a****29a** and ribs **29c** and **29d** are similarly centered on minor axis **25b** as can be seen in FIG. 3. The circumferential width of ribs **29c** and **29d** is somewhat greater than that of ribs **29a** and **29b**. Referring more specifically to the taper of the ribs, the circumferential width becomes narrower from inlet end portion **24** to intermediate portion **23**. Similarly, the radial thickness of each rib becomes smaller from inlet end portion **24** to intermediate portion **23**. The ribs are formed integrally with wall structure **22** so as to provide increased wall thickness in the areas of the ribs as compared to the remainder the wall structure.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 10, as follows:

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Collar **12** may be provided with an alternative to clip **13**. As seen in FIG. 7 and FIG. 8, disposed on collar **12** is a retainer **60**. Retainer **60** is comprised of a membrane or surface **61** which is preferably molded integrally in, and is disposed in, a region located radially outward on collar **12**. Surface **61** is segmented by slits **62a** and **62b** dividing plate **61** into segments **63a**, **63b**, **63c**, and **63d** which segments are somewhat less stiff than the surrounding region **64**. To

retain a cable or wire end within the retainer 60, an end portion of the cable or wire is inserted between or within one of the slits 62a and 62b. As the cable or wire end is pushed through the slit or slits, one or more of the segments or panels 63a, 63b, 63c and 63d will flex such that the wire or cable end can be inserted. The cable or wire end is retained by the friction or binding action of the segments ~~er~~on cables 63a, 63b, 63c and 63d. It is appreciated that the number of slits and panels may vary.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 21, as follows:

As shown in figures 7 and 8, the retainer 60 is formed in the surrounding annularangular ring that forms the collar 12. When the pay-out tube 10 is secured to the container 49 as shown in figure 6, the connection is typically sufficiently loose to enable the cable or wire end extending through the retainer 60 to be pushed between the inner surface 11b of the collar 12 and the exterior of the wall of the container 49.